## Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PEPR, TW, US SUBJECT: FUTURE OF NAMRU-2

**REF: STATE 209466** 

- 1. NMRDC CONCEPT PAPER HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE AND DISCUSSED WITH DR. JOHN CROSS, SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR, NAMRU-2, WHO VISITED THE EMBASSY SETEMBER 5. DR. CROSS TOLD US THAT THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (CNO) AND JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (JCS) HAVE STILL NOT APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAMRU-2 IN THE PHILIPPINES AS PROPOSED IN THE CONCEPT PAPER. EVEN IF APPROVED THIS MONTH, DR. CROSS OPINED THAT THE EARLIEST THAT AN ADVANCE PARTY COULD ARRIVE IN THE PHILIPPINES WOULD BE DECEMBER 1978/JANUARY 1979.
- 2. NAMRU-2 PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN JOINT MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS AND STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF DISEASES ENDEMIC AND EPIDEMIC IN THF PHILIPPINES AS MUTUALLY AGREED BY NAMRU-2 AND THE PHILIPPINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THIS WAS ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT IN THE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE 278 DATED MAY 21, 1976 SIGNED BY AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AND GOP DIPLOMATIC NOTE 76-1330 OF 21 MAY 1976. THIS AGREEMENT STILL STANDS. INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT IS THE PROVISION FOR US CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO NAMRU-2 AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, TO ENTER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR LIMITED PERIODS OF TIME FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING ON AGREED MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS.

3. WE NOTE IN REFTEL THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN NMRDC CONCEPT PROPOSAL. WE HAVE NO APPROACHED GOP FORMALLY CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND CONSIDER IT NECESSARY

TO DO SO -- AND TO RECEIVE GOP APPROVAL -- BEFORE PLANS SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL BEGIN TO BE IMPLEMENTED. WE ARE PREPARED TO APPROACH GOP AT ANY TIME BUT BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE BEST TO WAIT UNTIL NOTIFIED THAT CNO AND JCS HAVE APPROVED NAMRU-2 MOVE. OUR APPROACH TO GOP WOULD CONSIST OF PROPOSA TO EXTEND MAY 21, 1976 AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAMRU-2 WITH STATEMENT OF ITS PROPOSED MISSION AND OPERATIONS. WE WILL ALSO REQUEST THE APPROPRIATE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR PERSONNEL, DUTY FREE IMPORTATION OF THEI CARS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS AND THE REQUISITE TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL, LIBRARY, EQUIPMENTS AND SUPPLIES

4. WHILE WE ANTICIPATE GOP APPROVAL, WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF THIS GIVEN THE CURRENT SENSITIVITIES RELATING TO THE MIL ITARY BASES. IN ANY CASE, LEAVING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF CNO AND JCS APPROVAL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE DEPARTMENT OR NAMRU CAN COUNT ON GOP APPROVAL IN TIME TO MEET SCHEDULE SET FORT PARA 3 REFTEL. TOUSSAINT

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